

Students' Use of the Standard Variation of Indonesian Self-Reference

Addressing Terms of *Aku* and *Saya* toward Teachers

ABSTRACT

The Indonesian language has two standard variations of address terms to refer to oneself, which are *aku* and *saya*. Students are traditionally expected to use *saya* instead of *aku* to teachers because it is considered to be the more formal and polite form. However, the use of the personal pronouns seems to have been shifting in recent years. Therefore, this study aims to investigate high school students' use of self-reference addressing terms *aku* and *saya* to teachers. Questionnaires were used to obtain the data from 127 participants of the second grade of Senior High School 1 Salatiga. To explore further information, stimulated response cards also were used to examine 10 students who chose both *aku* and *saya*. The general results demonstrate that the majority of the respondents still used *saya* exclusively, and only one student used *aku*. Nevertheless, there were also a significant number of students who used both *aku* and *saya*. The biggest factors that affect the term selection were the relationship with teachers and teachers' personality.

Key words: *self-reference, address terms, saya, aku, language shift, politeness*

